

March 7, 2011

Good evening Chairs & Members of the Finance Committee. My name is Ed Woodson, I live in Manchester, CT. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 1008, the bonding bill that provides money for affordable and supportive housing.

I am a Vietnam Veteran who was homeless with two teenage daughters after losing my wife last May (2010). I am here to testify to tell you how important Supportive Housing has been for me and how it has helped me to stabilize my family. Without Chrysalis Center's Veteran's Support Services and their help with funding for an apartment, I would be without a home and my family would be separated.

Supportive Housing has helped me in more ways than one. It has provided me with help paying rent and also has helped to connect me to services I didn't know existed. Now, that I live in a safe, secure environment I am able to focus on my health by receiving services at VA in Newington to help with my substance abuse, mental health and diabetes.

My daughters are improving as well now that they have a permanent home. One of my daughters was recently accepted at St. Joseph's college in Hartford. My other daughter, who has developmental disabilities, is transitioning to a vocational training school for art. Without Support Housing and the additional services that I receive, none of this would have been possible. Thank you for letting me testify here today.

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